

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes - Nov.19, 2013

Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair. Absent: Mike Barry. Leave of absence: Kate Rossiter.

The meeting opened at 7:30.

1. Approval of minutes: The minutes of October 1, 2013, were approved. Jenny/Bob 5-0.

2. Member comments:

Jerry: (1) Final Master Plan forum is Wednesday night, 11/20/13. (2) Community Preservation Committee meeting is Thursday, 11/21.

Sue: (1) At the last Master Plan Steering Committee meeting, Open Space was still Goal #1 for the Master Plan. (2) A planning session for the library's forestland grant is Wed, 11/20 from 2 to 4 pm. (3) Annie Chappell's meeting with Ed Snow is Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 pm at the Trinitarian Church Lounge.

Jenny: (1) Jerry and Jenny attended the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership meeting on regional conservation planning for climate change using GIS modeling. (2) Friday, Nov. 22, at 9 am the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is organizing a boat trip to look at erosion for FERC. Anyone is welcome.

3. Mill Brook wetlands update: The committee discussed funding and strategy possibilities for the wetland parcel which is part of Ed Snow's golf course package. Most likely source of funding at the moment is a state L.A.N. D. grant.

4. Trail signs update: Jerry distributed some of the aluminum trail signs with our logo in color. The 500 markers cost \$1.65 each for a total cost of \$845. \$300 was donated by Northfield Trails Association.

5. PVRS Stewardship Plan update: John Lepore's project for the high school grounds, *Pioneering Stewardship Plan: an action inspired design*, is now in print form with a booklet available on the web and a project summary. The Open Space Committee does not know if the full PVRS School Committee has approved the plan. The committee also expressed concern about the funding priorities with CPA money.

6. Citizen Steward Award nominees: Jenny announced that there are two nominees for the award so far and hopes that we can encourage nominees with an agricultural aspect. The last few years the award has emphasized the recreation aspect of conservation of natural resources.

7. 2015 Open Space budget: Jerry suggested that we request \$1200 in the 2015 budget which would cover kiosk materials and trail head signs. \$1200 is level funding from the last few years. Stream team reports need to be printed; at least one for each year should be placed in the Open Space file.

Jerry requested that committee members bring any additional budget ideas to the next meeting. The budget request is due to the Finance Committee on January 7, 2014.

8. CPC request for funding ideas: Requests must be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee by Jan. 15, 2014. We will discuss the issue at the Dec. meeting after the Nov. 21st CPC public forum.

9. Nick Fleck proposal for a flora/fauna survey: Jerry distributed a proposal from Nick Fleck for a “survey of flora and fauna in Northfield Town Forests”. Does he mean the new Town Forest or all municipal forests? His paper explained the goals and potential members of a committee. Open Space members suggested several possible resources including the Mill Brook report, the lists in the Open Space Plan and also possible additions to Nick’s committee. *Jerry will forward our suggestions to Nick.*

10. Next meeting: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary